



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Tuesday, February 19, 2008

Arizona Department of Public Safety Seizes 25 Kilos of Cocaine, 1,850 Pounds of Marijuana and \$150,000 in Drug Cash in a three day period

Arizona Department of Public Safety Officers working with DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) Officers stopped a motor home on February 13th on Interstate 10 near Benson. A subsequent search yielded 18 kilos of Cocaine hidden inside a compartment. A related investigation on a residence on the southwest side of Tucson revealed 1,481 pounds of Marijuana, 13 AK-47's, two semiautomatic handguns, along with thousands of rounds of ammunition. A vehicle was stopped leaving another residence under surveillance resulting in the seizure of 7 kilos of Cocaine, an AK-47 and approximately \$150,000 in Cash. A total of 7 people were arrested in all three incidents.

On February 14th at 12:51 p.m., a DPS Officer stopped a Gold 2001 Dodge Stratus westbound on Interstate 10 at milepost 241 for an equipment violation. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed a burlap bundle of marijuana on the rear floorboard. Three more bundles of Marijuana were found in the trunk bringing the total to 175 pounds. The driver was arrested and the vehicle seized.

On February 15th at 10:15 a.m., a DPS Officer stopped a vehicle northbound on Interstate 19 at milepost 43. A subsequent search of the vehicle, a rented 2008 Chevrolet Cobalt, revealed 194 pounds of Marijuana. The driver was arrested for possession of marijuana, possession of marijuana for sale and transportation of marijuana for sale.

"Another excellent example of the due diligence performed everyday on the highways of this state by DPS Officers. In addition, DPS Criminal Investigators are working with local and federal agencies in Southern Arizona in a successful effort to go after drug dealing operations that are being set up in places like Tucson. It's another example of a winning partnership by law enforcement," said Roger Vanderpool, Director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Press Inquiries:

PO BOX 6638 | Phoenix, AZ 85005-6638 | www.azdps.gov | pio@azdps.gov